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# FOOD PREVIEW

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A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

Reserve

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service

April 1, 1958  
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- MEAT: Supplies expected to be slightly smaller this year than last--for second consecutive year. Greater output pork late this year not likely to offset smaller production of other meats. Veal will show largest percentage decline; calf slaughter will be down considerably.
- Beef: Supplies will be smaller than 1957 but reduction will be less than last year. Most of reduction in 1958 slaughter will be in cows and heifers. Slaughter of fed cattle (which provides top quality beef) will again be large. Getting off to a later start than last year, it will likely increase to a fairly high seasonal peak in late spring or early summer.
- Pork: Hog production is on the rise, so moderately more pork is expected this year than last. Through early summer, though, gain over a year earlier will probably be slight since the 1957 fall pig crop--source of pork supplies over the next several months--was only 2 percent above the preceding fall crop. But average slaughter weight will be rather heavy.
- Lamb: Total slaughter is expected to be substantially below 1957 although not as much below as the 17% decline in sheep and lamb in January and February.
- POULTRY:
- Chickens: Supplies between mid-March and mid-year expected to run 10% greater than last year, according to recent replacements and egg settings.
- Turkeys: Farmers' first-of-the-year intentions were for about the same number of turkeys as the record 80.6 million birds produced last year, but supplies will probably fall short of last year's total.
- EGGS: Due to the smaller flock now on hand--March 1 layers were down 4% from last year--egg production until mid-year is likely to be below 1957.
- DAIRY: Supplies of milk are likely to increase around one billion pounds this year. While 1957 output--126.4 billion pounds--was nine-tenths of a billion pounds greater than the preceding year, it was the smallest increase in 4 years. Total per capita use of milk products in 1958 will probably increase slightly over last year, but use in 1957 was second lowest of record.
- FRUIT:
- Deciduous: Storage holdings of apples March 1 stood at 18 million bushels--nearly 5-1/2 million bushels above year ago, nearly 6 million above average. Storage stocks of pears--slightly above one million bushels--about same as year earlier--were about 300 thousand bushels above average. With favorable weather, strawberry output in the three early spring States--

Louisiana, Alabama, Texas--is expected to run a fifth larger than last year's relatively light crop. In Florida, successive freezes and heavy rains practically eliminated the 1958 winter crop. March 1 stocks of frozen strawberries were about 16% less than unusually large stocks year ago.

Citrus: Remaining supplies of both oranges and grapefruit are substantially smaller than year ago. March 15 supplies of oranges are estimated at 41 million boxes, compared with 62 million last year, while grapefruit supplies of about 8 million boxes are only half the quantity available March 15 year ago. Crop of California lemons--estimated at 15.6 million boxes--runs 4% below last year but a fifth above average. Output of frozen orange concentrate in Florida by March 15 totaled over 37 million gallons--8% less than year earlier. Packers' stocks--about 27 million gallons--were down about 18% from last year. Supplies will continue lighter, at least until next fall, than in same period 1957.

Dried: Dried prune supplies in balance 1957-58 marketing year expected to be about same or larger than in same period last year. But raisin supplies will remain considerably below previous year due to smaller pack in 1957.

Canned: This spring's available supply of canned fruits will about equal year earlier.

Frozen: Slightly larger supplies of frozen fruits and berries are on hand, compared with 1957. March 1 refrigerated holdings--about 393 million pounds--were about 13-1/2 million pounds greater than year earlier, and 82 million pounds above 5-year average.

Tree Nuts: Output of walnuts and pecans in 1957 was below normal. The almond crop, although much smaller than record 1956 output, was about average. Considerable carryover from 1956 crop made total supplies more than ample for normal needs. Filbert crop was record and supplies are plentiful.

VEGETABLES: In early March, estimates of production of winter vegetables were for crops 15% below last year, 17% under average. Florida crops were particularly damaged by freezes, excessive rains. Planting and growth of early spring crops have been delayed, and shipments in next several weeks are likely to continue below normal. However, the extensive replanting of a large variety of crops in Florida could result in unusual overlapping of harvest dates and shipments beginning in late April or early May. Among crops that may be affected are snap beans, celery, sweet corn, cabbage, tomatoes. In addition, prospects (based on available estimates of acreage on indicated production) are for good size spring crops of asparagus, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, onions.

Canned: Supplies of most canned vegetables, while moderately smaller than year earlier, are substantially above average.

Frozen: Stocks are record large. With sharply reduced supplies of winter season vegetables for fresh market, total movement of frozen items first half this year expected to be substantially greater than in same period 1957.

Potatoes: Supplies substantially below year earlier, with March 1 storage stocks down 20% and the winter crop off nearly a third. Spring production also likely to be below year earlier.

# The Plentiful Foods Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, will support the industry campaign . . .

## JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH